

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body comprising a carrier, a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and a catalyst layer containing an alkali metal, loaded on the carrier, which catalyst further contains a substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over reaction between main components of the carrier and the alkali metal.

2. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

3. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the catalyst layer further contains~~ at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide ~~is~~ metals selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal is contained in the catalyst layer.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the carrier is a honeycomb carrier.

8. (Original) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

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9. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal is disposed in the carrier.

10. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal is disposed between the carrier and the catalyst layer.

11. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal is disposed in the heat-resistant inorganic oxide material.